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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of determining a pathway between a source connection point and a target connection point comprising:

providing a computer system having at least one database comprising data defining individuals, business entities, or both as connection points;

defining the source connection point as a list of contacts comprising individuals, business entities, or both;

defining the target connection point, wherein the target connection point is at least one individual, business entity, or both; and

defining a set of intermediate connection points as a series of intermediate contacts that collectively define the pathway from the source connection point to the target connection point, as a function of predetermined relationships among a superset of contacts comprising the intermediate contacts.

2. (Currently Amended)   The computer-implemented method of claim 1 further comprising: providing at least one host database comprising identification data for each of a plurality of individuals and business entities, wherein for each individual or business entity said identification data includes relationships to at least one other individual or business entity;

defining a starting point as a list of at least one individual or business entity;

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defining an endpoint as a list of at least one individual or <u>business</u> entity; and

generating at least one pathway that identifies a set of intermediate individuals, <u>business</u> entities or both, wherein the identity of each intermediate individual or <u>business</u> entity includes:

a first set of identification data in common with a set of identification data of an individual or <u>business</u> entity from the starting point or of a prior intermediate individual or <u>business</u> entity; and

a second set of identification data in common with a set of identification data of a subsequent intermediate individual or <u>business</u> entity or of an individual or <u>business</u> entity from the endpoint.

3. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 2 wherein at least one of the starting point and the endpoint is a list comprising a plurality of individuals, <u>business</u> entities or both.

4. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 2 further comprising providing a user interface configured for entry of at least one of the starting point or endpoint.

5. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 2 wherein the identification data comprises an identification of the individual or <u>business</u> entity.

6. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 2 wherein providing at least one host database comprises deriving information from at least one private or public domain source including data representing individuals, <u>business</u> entities or both.

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7. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 6 wherein deriving information comprises

parsing information from at least one private or public domain source.

8. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 6 wherein the at least one private or public

domain source includes web sites, publications and databases.

9. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 2, further comprising, prior to generating,

defining a maximum number of intermediate individuals, business entities or both to comprise

the at least one pathway.

10. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 2, further comprising: for the at least one

pathway, displaying the starting point, the one or more intermediate individuals, business entities

or both and the at least one endpoint.

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11. (Currently Amended)   A computer-readable storage medium having stored thereon instructions for determining at least one pathway between a source connection point and a target connection point, said instructions when executed by a computer causes a processor to perform operations comprising:

defining the source connection point as a list of contacts comprising individuals, business entities, or both;

defining the target connection point, wherein the target connection point is at least one individual, business entity, or both; and

defining a set of intermediate connection points as a series of intermediate contacts that collectively define the pathway from the source connection point to the target connection point, as a function of predetermined relationships among a superset of contacts comprising the intermediate contacts.

12. (Currently Amended)   The computer-readable storage medium of claim 11 further comprising:

accessing at least one host database comprising identification data for each of a plurality of individuals and business entities, wherein for each individual or entity said identification data includes relationships to at least one other individual or business entity;

defining a starting point as a list of at least one individual or business entity; defining an endpoint as a list of at least one individual or business entity; and

generating at least one pathway that identifies a set of intermediate individuals, business entities or both, wherein the identity of each intermediate individual or business entity includes:

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a first set of identification data in common with a set of identification data of an

individual or <u>business</u> entity from the starting point or of a prior intermediate individual or

<u>business</u> entity; and

a second set of identification data in common with a set of identification data of a

subsequent intermediate individual or <u>business</u> entity or of an individual or <u>business</u> entity from

the endpoint.

13. (Currently Amended)   The computer-readable storage medium of claim 11 further

comprising: providing at least one host database comprising identification data for each of a

plurality of individuals and <u>business</u> entities, wherein for each individual or <u>business</u> entity said

identification data includes relationships to at least one other individual or <u>business</u> entity;

defining a starting point as a list of at least one individual or <u>business</u> entity;

defining an endpoint as a list of at least one individual or <u>business</u> entity; and generating

at least one pathway that identifies a set of intermediate individuals, entities or both, wherein the

identity of each intermediate individual or <u>business</u> entity includes:

a first set of identification data in common with a set of identification data of an

individual or <u>business</u> entity from the starting point or of a prior intermediate individual or

<u>business</u> entity; and

a second set of identification data in common with a set of identification data of a

subsequent intermediate individual or entity or of an individual or <u>business</u> entity from the

endpoint.

14. (Currently Amended)   The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13 wherein at

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least one of the starting point and the endpoint is a list comprising a plurality of individuals,

business entities or both.

15. (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13 further

comprising providing a user interface configured for entry of at least one of the starting point or

endpoint.

16. (Currently Amended)   The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13 wherein the

identification data comprises an identification of the individual or business entity.

17. (Currently Amended)   The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13 wherein

providing at least one host database comprises deriving information from at least one private or

public domain source including data representing individuals, business entities or both.

18. (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable storage medium of claim 17 wherein

deriving information comprises parsing information from at least one private or public domain

source.

19. (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable storage medium of claim 17 wherein the at

least one private or public domain source includes web sites, publications and databases.

20. (Currently Amended)   The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, further

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comprising, prior to generating, defining a maximum number of intermediate individuals,

<u>business</u> entities or both to comprise the at least one pathway.

21. (New)   A computer-implemented method of determining a pathway between a source

connection point and a target connection point comprising:

provide a computer system having at least one database comprising data

defining individuals as connection points;

defining the source connection point as a list of contacts comprising individuals;

defining the target connection point, wherein the target connection point is at least

one individual; and

defining a set of intermediate connection points as a series of intermediate

contacts that collectively define the pathway from the source connection point to the target

connection point, as a function of predetermined relationships among a superset of contacts

comprising the intermediate contacts.

22. (New)   A computer-readable storage medium having stored thereon instructions for

determining at least one pathway between a source connection point and a target connection

point, said instructions when executed by a computer causes a processor to perform operations

comprising:

defining the source connection point as a list of contacts comprising individuals;

defining the target connection point, wherein the target connection point is at least

one individual; and

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defining a set of intermediate connection points as a series of intermediate contacts that collectively define the pathway from the source connection point to the target connection point, as a function of predetermined relationships among a superset of contacts comprising the intermediate contacts.